GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3093
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Open Defecation Free Districts
Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 17 districts in the country have so far become Open- Defecation Free (ODF) out of the approximately 677 districts across the country;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether in view of the above the Government would be able to meet the dead line of October 2019 to achieve complete sanitation in all the districts of the country, if so, the strategy being adopted to achieve the goal;
(d) whether some of the/all the districts along Ganga have become ODF as the Government had given priority to these districts; and
(e) if so, the number of districts declared ODF, and if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to expedite the work?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Sanitation is a behavioral issue. It involves change of mindset amongst people to stop open defecation and to adopt safe sanitation practices. This requires engagement of community and skill in facilitation and 'triggering'. There is constraint of these capacities. Also, since lack of change of behavior on part of even few members of community can put entire community to risk, another challenge is to saturate the entire village.

(c) Ministry is hopeful to achieve the target of Swachh Bharat by 2nd October, 2019. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) is laying more focus on behaviour change and usage of toilets. The focus on capacity building has been increased. State level workshops involving all the key stakeholders such as Collectors, CEO, Zilla Panchayats, Chairmen Zilla Panchayats etc. have been held in different States. The Government of India has also undertaken direct training of Collectors and more than 302 district Collectors from across India have been trained so far. The Centre-State coordination has been increased through increased visits to States, coordination meetings, and reviews. There is also a renewed focus on behavior change communication.

(d) and (e) Out of 52 districts along Ganga, government has prioritised 4256 villages (from 1651 gram panchayats). Of these, 1137 villages have become ODF. Ministry has nominated a nodal officer (OSD) to prioritize this work. Collaboration is made with Department of Youth Affairs and Nehru Yuvak Kendra to Mobilize and train youth in these villages. Collectors of these districts are being trained by GoI.These districts are being imparted further trainings in Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) through virtual class rooms.
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